LIBRARY

Norman Cross
Rural District Council.

MINISTRY OF H
LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

upon the

Sanitary Condition of the District
during the year 1951.

Norman Cross
Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

upon the

Sanitary Condition of the District
during the year 1951.

GEO. M. MOLYNEUX, PRINTER, 141, FLETTON AVENUE, OLD FLETTON

To the Norman Cross Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman & Members of the Council,

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the sanitary conditions of the district for the year ending 31st December, 1951.

The report has been constructed on similar lines as last year's report, as requested by the Ministry of Health.

STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health ..... F. D. F. Steede, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector ..... H. E. Reeve, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	35795 acres
Estimated Population (mid 1951)	8732
Number of Inhabited Houses, end of 1951	2477
Rateable Value	£30,530
Value of Penny Rate 31/3/1951	£120

Social conditions show little change, while the general health of the district is very satisfactory.

The Infant Mortality rate shows a slight increase, but is based on relatively small numbers, i.e. 5 deaths (4 under 4 weeks), and cannot therefore be considered statistically significant. The birth rate shows a fall, but is still above that of the rest of the Country generally, while the death rate, virtually unchanged, is satisfactory.

For yet another year there were no notifications of diphtheria, significant of the success of the immunisation campaign. However, there are signs that freedom from this dread disease is resulting in a slight degree of complacency amongst the general public, and it cannot be emphasized too strongly that all children should have been immunised before the age of 1 year.

New housing construction has made steady progress throughout the year and should improve next year, but the list of applicants is still a large one.

The problem with regard to the families living in hutments, for the most part in the Sibson area and of which some mention was made last year, shows little change. In many cases conditions are far from satisfactory, particularly in those parts of the camp over which the Council has no direct control. Unfortunately, the resources of the Council, already overstrained by the ordinary requirements of the district can hold out little promise of rehousing these families in the immediate future.

The position with regard to the provision of piped water supply is very good indeed, and there are only a few isolated parts of the district, chiefly in the Fen area, without a supply.

The Sewerage Scheme is making good progress, and it may well be completed before the alterations have been made to the Sewage Works at Fletton which is necessary before any connection can be made.

In conclusion I should like to thank the Members of the Council and their officers for the kindness to me in helping to make my task a pleasant one.

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS	
Birth Rate per 1000 population	16.8
STILL BIRTHS	
Rate per 1000 total births	6.8
DEATHS	
Death rate per 1000 population	11.9
Deaths from Puerperal Causes per 1000 total (live and still) births	Nil
Death Rate of Infants under One Year of age:—	
All infants per 1,000 live births	34.0
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	36.8
Illegitimate ,, ,, ,, illegitimate ,, ,, ...	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	10
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	Nil

RATES

	Per 1,000 Population				Per 1,000 LiveBirths
	Live Births	Still Births	Crude Death Rate	Stand-ardized Death Rate	Infantile Mortality
Norman Cross R.D.C.	16.8	0.11	11.9	12.5	34.0
England & Wales	15.5	0.36	12.5	12.5	29.6

The following table shows the classification of deaths from all causes (Registrar-General's figures):—

Causes of Death.	Males	Females	Totals
All Causes.	54	50	104
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	1	1
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
7. Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—
9. Other infective & parasitic diseases	—	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	1	2
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	—	—	—
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	3	3
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	—	—
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	3	2	5
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	—	1
16. Diabetes	—	—	—
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	8	9	17
18. Coronary disease, angina	6	5	11
19. Hypertension with heart disease	—	2	2
20. Other heart disease	11	12	23
21. Other circulatory disease	1	—	1
22. Influenza	1	1	2
23. Pneumonia	3	—	3
24. Bronchitis	3	1	4
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	1	1	2
26. Ulcer of stomach & duodenum	1	—	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoea	1	—	1
28. Nephritis & nephrosis	—	—	—
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	—	1	1
32. Other defined & ill-defined diseases	7	10	17
33. Motor vehicle accidents	3	—	3
34. All other accidents	3	1	4
35. Suicide	—	—	—
36. Homicide & operations of war	—	—	—

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

(a) Laboratory Facilities:

No change has taken place in the general arrangements during the past year. Bacteriological specimens from Practitioners in the district are examined at the Pathological Department of the Memorial Hospital, Peterborough, or by the Pathological Laboratory, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.

(b) Ambulance Facilities:

(1) For the removal of infectious cases a motor ambulance is available at the Isolation Hospital, Huntingdon.

(2) For non-infectious and accident cases the area is covered by the ambulance service of the Soke of Peterborough County Council under an agreement with Huntingdon County Council, which is the Local Health Authority responsible. This arrangement is working satisfactorily.

(c) Nursing in the Home:

Nursing in the district is carried on by qualified nurses employed by the Huntingdon County Council. All nurses are certified midwives and attend the majority of maternity cases under the Domiciliary Midwifery Scheme.

All cases of Tuberculosis are visited by the Tuberculosis Health Visitor and a report with details of home conditions and circumstances is completed.

(d) Clinics and Treatment Centres:

Infant Welfare work in the district is still carried out by the Fletton and District Infant and Child Welfare Association by arrangement with Huntingdon County Council, the Welfare Clinic being held at London Road, Old Fletton, every week on Tuesday from 2 to 4 p.m.

YAXLEY.

An Infant Welfare Clinic is held at the Stretton Hall every 4th Friday in the month from 2-30—4 p.m.

ELTON.

The Infant Welfare Centre is situated at the Highgate Hall and meets on the 2nd Thursday each month at 2-30—4 p.m.

The following additional Clinics are provided :—

School Clinic (Minor Ailment)	London Road Clinic, Old Fletton, Every Wednesday 10—12.
School Clinic (Minor Ailment)	Stretton Hall, Yaxley Every 4th Friday 10—12.
Eyes	London Road Clinic. By Appt.
Dental Clinic	High Street, Old Fletton.
Tuberculosis	28, Fitzwilliam St., Peterborough, Every Monday 2—4 p.m. By Appt.
Orthopaedic	Memorial Hospital, Peterborough, 2nd Tuesday in the month. By Appt.
Nose, Throat & Ear Clinic	Memorial Hospital, Peterborough, Every Wednesday at 3 p.m. By Appt.
Venereal Diseases	28 Fitzwilliam St., Peterborough, Women Only—Wednesday 5.30—7 p.m. Friday 10.30—12 noon. Men Only—Monday 5.30—7 p.m. Thursday 5.30—7 p.m.

Under the Ante and Post Natal Scheme, provided by the County Council, expectant mothers are examined twice during their pregnancy (or oftener if necessary) and once after confinement.

(e) **Hospitals :**

(1) Fever—The treatment of infectious diseases is carried out at the Hospital for Infectious Diseases at Huntingdon.

(2) General hospital services including Out-patient facilities are provided at Peterborough Memorial Hospital.

(3) Provision is made for Maternity Cases at The Gables, Peterborough, or the Maternity Hospital, Paxton Park.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Surveyor's Office,
Booster Station,
Yaxley,
June, 1952.

To the Medical Officer of Health.

Sir,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1951, this being my first complete year of office.

NEW HOUSING.

(a) By Council—The number of houses built since 1945 is as follows:—

Up to 31/12/1949.		During 1950.		During 1951.	
Folksworth	2	Orton Waterville	6	Holme	2
Chesterton	2	Stibbington	2	Alwalton	4
Orton Waterville	4	Yaxley	10	Elton	14
Stilton	22			Yaxley	8
Farcet	20			Orton Waterville	4
Elton	4				
Yaxley	8				
Totals	62		18		32
				Total	112

Plus adapting of **Temporary Dwellings**:—

Holmewood	11		
Sibson Camp	60		
Horsey Toll	4		
	75	Total	75
		Families Accomodated	187

In course of erection at the end of 1951:

Holme—2 Houses and 4 Bungalows
Yaxley—8 Bungalows

Tenders invited for 24 houses at Farcet.

(b) By Private Developers—4 Houses completed during the year.

Orton Waterville	1	(Licence granted by Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries).
Elton	1	
Orton Longueville	1	
Orton Waterville	1	

The progress in Council Housing shows a welcome rise in the number completed over the figures for previous years.

HOUSING SURVEY.

No progress was made in this direction, but with the appointment of an additional Sanitary Inspector to take effect in 1952, this must be first priority, even if only completed in a modified form, so that the houses can be categorized for Ministry return, and detailed measurements taken at a later date. Approximately one third of the work of inspection has been completed, and a complete card record compiled. The initial work was greatly hampered by the complete lack of any housing records in the office.

SUMMARY OF VISITS.

I give below a summary of visits, inspections etc., I have made during the past twelve months:—

	Visits		Visits
Nuisances	85	Caravans	29
Infectious Diseases	7	Refuse Collection	51
Cowsheds and Dairies	6	Interviews	532
Housing Acts	59	Committees, Conferences, Council Meetings	54
Council & Tem. Housing	235	New Buildings & Licensing	128
Water Supply	166	Knackers Yards	3
Rodent Control	22	Disinfestation	11
Factories & Workshops	2	Miscellaneous: (Petroleum Acts, Naming & Numbering, Planning Acts, Local Suppliers, etc.)	252
Food	26		
Sewers, Works & Drains	264		
Civil Defence	15		

NUISANCES.

Abated as a result of informal action	140
Abated as a result of Statutory action	Nil

Analysis	No.	No. of Inspections
Premises	17	28
Accumulation of Refuse	15	21
Foul ditches etc.	9	23
Drains	85	124
Animals	9	11
Overcrowding	9	15
Disinfestation	9	11
Dampness	15	17

Slaughter Houses	No. licensed or registered	Nil
	No. of inspections	Nil
Offensive trades (Health Act 1936)	No. established	1
	No. of inspections	3

DISINFECTION.

Cases of infectious diseases reported	3	No. of inspections	7
Rooms disinfected (a) Tuberculosis	1	(b) Others	2
Schools disinfected	Nil		

CLOSETS

No. of houses at the end of the year with W.C's	800
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, Pail Closets	1321
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, Privy Vaults	356
No. of W.C.'s constructed during the year for new houses	36
No. of W.C.'s newly constructed for old property	8
No. of Privies converted to W.C.'s	Nil
ASHBINS New provided	119

WATER SUPPLY.

The high pressure link main serving Dovecote Lane and Peterborough Road, Yaxley, has now given 12 months of trouble free service. In an effort to improve pressure in the Western End of Yaxley Broadway, a method of simultaneous control of Fletton Pumps and the Automatic Valve and Float Switch at Yaxley Booster Station was introduced at small cost in April; this has been a help and trials are continuing.

New supplies connected during the year are as follows:—

91 Domestic
22 Metered
6 Building

Samples taken from main piped supply	13
No. unsatisfactory	1

(1 unsatisfactory sample from Yaxley Industrial Hostel. Satisfactory samples obtained after cleansing and chlorination of storage tank by Ministry of Works.)

Samples taken from Wells	1
No. unsatisfactory	1

(1 unsatisfactory sample from pump supply — main supply since connected.)

HOUSING.

Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:

Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	120
Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	16

Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 80

Remedy of defects without service of formal Notices:

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 19

Action under Statutory Powers:

Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal Notices .... Nil

Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .... Nil

Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .... Nil
(2 undertakings accepted)

MILK SUPPLY.

1 Dairy	3 Licensed Dealers (2 for T.T. and 2 for 'Pasteurised')
4 Distributors	4 Supplementary (3 for T.T., 2 for 'Pasteurised' and 1 for 'Sterilized')

(Registrations under Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.)

DISINFESTATION.

(a) Bed Bugs.	No. of houses infested	Nil
	No. of houses disinfested	Nil
(b) Rats and Mice.	No. of houses inspected	17
	No. of houses treated and cleared	17

SEWERAGE.

The Scheme for the drainage of Yaxley, Farcet, Stilton and the two Ortons commenced on 20th November, 1950, and satisfactory progress has been made, the laying of sewers in Yaxley Village being 90% complete, and the Yaxley/Stilton sewer across The Wykes being 60% complete. A start has also been made on the rising main from Yaxley No. 1 Pumping Station. By December 1951, some £45,000. 0. 0. worth of work had been carried out of the Tender of £114,000. 0. 0.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

Originally commenced in February 1948 on a fortnightly basis, bins being collected from the rear of houses. However, the weight of loads increased steadily, and together with labour difficulties a change to kerb-side collection with reservations, i.e. the aged and infirm, was introduced in August 1951.

The new scheme is now working smoothly, enabling a regular bi-weekly collection to be maintained with a saving in labour amounting to the wages of one man (£335 approx. per annum.)

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

The Council have now appointed their own operator who has been trained, much assistance having been given by the Peterborough City Sanitary Inspector's Department. The operator now treats refuse tips, and work on private property previously carried out by a contractor.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Total No. of Factories on Register (including bakehouses)		73
No. of inspections		5
No. in which nuisances abated		Nil
Homework	No. of outworkers	Nil
	No. of houses	Nil
Legal Proceedings		Nil

MISCELLANEOUS.

Caravans: The report shows an increase in the number of Vans Licensed, this reflecting the housing problem. All vans are inspected to keep the standard of sanitary arrangements as required under the Public Health Act.

CONCLUSION.

I should like to express my appreciation to the Council for their consideration and interest during the year, the Medical Officer of Health for his advice and great enthusiasm, to the Staff and workmen for their co-operation, and especially to the Clerk and her Assistant for the friendly help so freely given.

H. ERIC REEVE,

Surveyor & Sanitary Inspector.

The following table gives the incidence of notifiable diseases (other than tuberculosis) in the area during 1951.

DISEASE	TOTAL	under 1 year	1 — 2	2 — 3	3 — 4	4 — 5	5 — 10	10 — 15	15 — 20	20 — 35	35 — 45	45 — 65	65 & upwards	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Erysipelas	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	4	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Measles	3	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	5	—	—	—	2	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifications of infectious disease throughout the year were very low indeed.

FOOD POISONING.

There was a small outbreak of Food Poisoning—7 cases. The majority of these cases were mild, and there were no deaths.

The incriminating food was identified and steps taken to prevent a recurrence.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The following table sets out the number of children immunised in the district, together with the figure of the total child population:—

Under 5 Years		Between 5—15 Years.	
Number immunised	Estimated Population	Number immunised	Estimated Population
276	749	863	1200

Tuberculosis.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—
35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL :—	—	2	—	1	—	1	—	—

I am,

Your obedient servant,

F. D. F. STEEDE,

Medical Officer of Health.